

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03412 090649Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /039 W

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O 090610Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5905

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3412

FOR ACTING SECRETARY

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CASC (GROVE, THOMAS ARTHUR) NP

SUBJECT: THOMAS GROVE CASE

REF:FSTATE 194091, STATE 195668

DURING VISIT TO KING BIRENDRA ON SUNDAY AUGUST 8, AMBASSADOR PRESENTED LETTER ON GROVE CASE TO HIS MAJESTY. AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY REVIEWED FACTS SURROUNDING GROVE DISAPPEARANCE. SHE INDICATED THAT WHILE POLICE AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN DILIGENT IN THEIR HANDLING OF THE CASE SOME QUESTIONS NEEDED TO BE PURSUED FURTHER E.G. APPREHENSION AND QUESTIONING OF KRISHNA BAHADUR SUNWAR, THE MAJOR SUSPECT IN THE CASE, AND, FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION OF CASHING OF SOME OF GROVE'S TRAVELERS CHECKS AT AIRPORT BANK AFTER HIS DISAPPEARALFE. AMBASSADOR URGED HIS MAJESTY TO REQUEST THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS IN FOLLOWING UP OUTSTANDING LEADS IN ORDER TO DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENED TO THOMAS GROVE AND BRING AN END TO THE ANGUISH OF UNCERTAINTY FOR THE GROVE FAMILY.

HIS MAJESTY APPEARED SHOCKED BY THE GROVE CASE AND STATED HE WOULD PURSUE THE CASE WITH THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES.

CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, HEAD OF CID ON FRIDAY AUGUST 6. SUPERINTENDENT STATED THAT HE HAD REPORTS
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THAT SUNWAR HAD BEEN SEEN IN LAMOSANGU-BARABESI

AREA. A POLICE OFFICIAL EARLIER IN THE WEEK, WAS SENT TO THE AREA TO SEARCH FOR SUNWAR AND BRING HIM TO KATHMANDU. SUPERINTENDENT INFORMED CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HIGHER OFFICIALS IN NEPALESE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PRESSING HIM FOR RESULTS ON THE GROVE CASE. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CASHING OF GROVE'S TRAVELERS CHECKS WAS STILL IN PROGRESS. SUPERINTENDENT INDICATED THAT HE NEEDED MORE TIME TO PURSUE LEADS IN THE CASE BUT WAS CONFIDENT THAT INFORMATION ON FATE OF MR. GROVE WOULD BE DEVELOPED.

EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WITH INVOLVEMENT OF PALACE IN THE CASE, POLICE OFFICIALS WILL GIVE HIGHER AND MORE URGENT PRIORITY TO GROVE CASE. EMBASSY WILL REPORT NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.
FALZONE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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